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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/612,946	07/10/2000	Masato Ochiai	CFO	9916

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EXAMINER

CHOUDHARY, ANITA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2153

DATE MAILED: 08/11/2003

4

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/612,946

Applicant(s)

OCHIAI ET AL.

Examiner

Anita Choudhary

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 July 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 July 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-29 are pending.

Priority

Claim priority foreign applications, Japan 11-202737, 11-202738, 11-202739, and 11-203642 have been made in this application.

The effective filing date for the subject matter defined in the pending claims in the application is July 16, 1999.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9-15, 18, 19, and 22-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by **Scheifler et al.** (US Patent 6,480,863).

In referring to claim 1, 5, 14, 18, 27 and 28,

Scheifler shows a system for searching database from object identities requested by client and further allowing the adding or modification of database entries (Abstract, col. 4 lines 29-62).

Scheifler shows:

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- Requesting means for transmitting a search request for searching a device on the network to the network (col. 7 lines 3-5, see also “Type –Safe Attribute Matching” col. 18 lines 45-col. 41).
- Receiving means for receiving a search result corresponding to the search results corresponding to the search request (col. 10 lines 5-31, col. 19 lines 57- col. 20 line 59).
- Displaying means for displaying a device included in the search results (fig. 8, 614).
- Operating means (single entry modify, multi-entry add col. 15) for setting and/or changing hierarchical location information of the searched device in accordance with the displayed search result (col. 21 lines 10-18), the hierarchical location information representing a location of the device in a hierarchical data structure (col. 15 lines 15-55, col. 20 lines 60-col. 21 line 55).
- Transmitting means for transmitting the set hierarchical location information to the corresponding device (col. 21 lines 34-55).

In referring to claim 2, 6, 15, and 19:

Storing means for storing a plurality of set of map data (fig. 3, 10, col. 7 lines 26-37, col. 11 lines 61- col. 12 line 15) corresponding to each hierarchical level of the hierarchical location information (col. 19 lines 32-35), where in said operating means, responsive to a selection of one set of map data from the plurality of set of map data, for setting the hierarchical location information corresponding to the selected map data to the device (single entry modify, col. 15).

In referring to claim 9 and 22,

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Displaying device not displaying device not registered location information about searched device in a discriminable manner (showing no location field, col. 20 lines 1-15, col. 21 lines 45-55).

In referring to claim 10, 23, and 29,

- Storing means for storing hierarchical location information representing a location of the device in a hierarchical data structure, hierarchical location information having a plurality set of data logically distinguished (fig. 3, 10, col. 7 lines 26-37, col. 11 lines 61- col. 12 line 15).
- Transmitting means for transmitting stored static attribute information and hierarchical location information to the network in order to search the device (templates, fig. 5, col. 8 lines 26-42).
- Controlling means, responsive to reception of the hierarchical location information from the network (single modify), for storing the received hierarchical location information in storing means (database) (col. 15 lines 41-62, col. 21 lines 19-55).

In regards to claim 11 and 24,

In addition to the rejection for claim 5, which claims similar matter discussed above, Scheifler shows,

- At least on information processing apparatus (101-103, 202, 204)
- Plurality of devices (col. 18 lines 64- col. 19 line 2)

Controlling means for storing the hierarchical location information received from the information processing apparatus (client's single entry modify, col. 15 lines 16-55) in

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a memory (120) and transmitting stored hierarchical location information to the network (in a search) (col. 21 lines 56-col. 22 line 2).

In referring to claim 12 and 25,

- A first information processing apparatus (database 101-103)

Managing a directory database registering a plurality of set of attribute information corresponding to devices on network (objects, printers col. 18 lines 62-66), the database storing hierarchical location information (col.20 line 9-10).

Searching means for searching the device from directory database and transmitting results (col. 6 lines 50-57) including hierarchical location information (col. 20 lines 1-15).

- A second information processing apparatus (clients 202, 204)

Operating a means for changing attribute information of the search device (single entry modify col. 15 lines 15-40).

Transmitting means for transmitting changed attributes information to corresponding device (col. 21 lines 34-41).

- Plurality of devices (col. 18 lines 64- col. 19 line 2).

Controlling means for storing the attribute information received from the second information processing apparatus (client's single entry modify, col. 15 lines 16-55) in a memory (120) and transmitting stored information to the network (in a search) (col. 21 lines 56-col. 22 line 2).

- First processing apparatus updates contents of the directory when changed attributes information is received from device (col. 19 lines 3-36).

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In referring to claim 13 and 26,

Changed attribute information includes hierarchical location information (col. 19 lines 33-36).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 16, 17, 20, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Scheifler et al.** in view of **Tonelli et al (US 6,229,540)**.

In referring to claim 3, 7, 16, and 20,

Although Scheifler shows substantial features of the claimed invention, Scheifler does not show display icons corresponding to the searched device. Nonetheless this feature is well known in the art, and would have been an obvious modification to the system disclosed by Scheifler as evidenced by Tonelli.

In an analogous art, Tonelli shows a system for auditing a network to discover devices connected to the network. Devices are represented as icons (Abstract). Tonelli shows,

Display icon corresponding to device and operating means for selecting device and map to set hierarchical location information corresponding to selected map data to the device icon (col. 7 lines 20-51, fig. 10, 11).

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Given this feature, a person of ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying the system disclosed by Scheifler to employ the feature shown by Tonelli in order to present a user friendly means for designing and maintaining a network of devices (see Tonelli col. 2 lines 18-24).

In referring to claim 4, 8, 17, and 21, Tonelli shows hierarchical location information includes coordinates information representative of location in an area of map and disposing the selected icon data at the location in the area and setting the coordinate information of the location to the device corresponding to the device icon (col. 6 lines 12-52).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anita Choudhary whose telephone number is (703) 305-5268. The examiner can normally be reached on 9am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenton Burgess can be reached on (703) 305-4792. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-7239 for regular communications and (703) 746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

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AC

August 6, 2003



KRISNA LIM
PRIMARY EXAMINER